



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 24, 1983

TO: Division File ✓

FROM: P. M. McCarthy *PMM*

SUBJECT: LPC 11910504 - Madison County - Venice/GMI and Bliss

On June 16, 1983, I visited the subject site and interviewed Ed Hoffarth and Henry Campbell, employees of Midwest Equipment and Removal Corporation.

Mr. Hoffarth has been with the company since January of 1981. He stated that the spraying of the equipment storage area, west of the tanks, ceased in the latter part of 1981. He also stated that he hasn't seen the tanks being used for about two years; however, he only works three days per week. He estimated that he has seen trucks using the tanks, either putting oil in or taking it out, approximately six times. Sometimes, there would be more than one truck. He described the two trucks as having an approximate tank capacity of 3000 gallons. One had a red cab, the other white. He said he thought the white truck had the Bliss name on it, "but couldn't swear to it". He said he knew that the Bliss company owned the tank. He remembered talking with Russell Bliss at the site, and Russell Bliss was driving "a very fancy 40,000 dollar car".

Henry Campbell has worked for Midwest Equipment since they have been at this location, sometime in 1975. He said the tanks were being used by the Bliss Company when he started. He stated that sometimes he would see the trucks one time a month, and other times, ten times per month. He stated that he was responsible for locking the gates every evening, and if a truck was at the tanks, the driver would ask him to stay, and he would oblige. According to Mr. Campbell, Russell Bliss visited the site in his car approximately eight to ten times. He does not ever remember seeing Russell Bliss in the trucks. He could not remember seeing any trucks at the tanks in the last two years. He described the trucks as not being semi-trailers but rather straight trucks with tanks, having an approximate capacity of 3000 gallons. One cab, he said, was white, the other red.

I asked both gentlemen if they were familiar with the term "bottoming out the tank". They both indicated that they were. I asked if they knew where, on this property, that trucks or tanks were "bottomed". Mr. Campbell said he thought that they did not "bottom out" the trucks on site, but rather "bottomed" the two tanks. I referred them to an aerial photograph, which their company has in its outer office. It indicates a low area southeast of the tanks, which in the color photo appears black. Mr. Campbell showed me the approximate location of a ditch, which carried water from the area of the tanks to the aforementioned swampy area. Mr. Campbell stated that usually this area contained water, however, it has been filled in.

Mr. Wayne Brent was not available for an interview, this date.

PMM:jlr

cc: Southern Region

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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